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R E A S O N S

To shew, that there is a great PROBABILITY of a

N A V I G A B L E P A S S A G E

T O T H E

W e s t e r n A m e r i c a n O c e a n ,

T H R O U G H

H U D S O N's S T R E I G H T S ,

and *C H E S T E R F I E L D* I N L E T ;

F R O M T H E

O B S E R V A T I O N S made on board the Ships
sent upon the late *D I S C O V E R Y* ; supported
by *A F F I D A V I T S*, which coincides with se-
veral Former Accounts.

Humbly offered to the Consideration of the *L O R D S*
and *C O M M O N S* assembled in Parliament.



L O N D O N :

Printed for J. ROBINSON at the *Golden Lion* in *Lud-
gate-street*, MDCCXLIX.



REASONS

To shew, that there is a great PROBABILITY of a

NAVIGABLE PASSAGE to the *Western*
American Ocean

THROUGH

HUDSON's STREIGHTS,
and *CHESTERFIELD INLET.*



FROM Mr. *Westal's* Report and Affidavit since his Return (who went farther up this Inlet than *Johnson*, Mate to Captain *Moor*, and Dr. *Thomson*, who follow'd him in the Schooner, and anchor'd five Leagues short of him) it appears, that it was not above four Leagues wide at the East Entrance from the Bay, bearing first north-westerly, further in westerly, and at the upper End south-westerly; the Water deep to the Shore, but the Lands low, the depth from 20 to 40 and 50 Fathom in the Mid-channel; the Water (as attested by those in the Schooner) where they anchor'd one Night, five Leagues, below *Westal's*

tal's Boat, when he was at the Place where he made his Observation, was clear and very salt ; the Spirings from the Head of the Boat at Anchor being dry'd into a white Salt upon their Shoes in the Morning, and the Streight there was six Leagues wide. Five Leagues higher, where *Wesfall* anchor'd and try'd the Tide by a Pole, about 200 Yards from the Shore, the depth was three Fathom, and five Fathom in the Channel ; it seem'd muddy ; and he reported that the Water upon the Surface was brackish at High Water, and almost fresh at Low Water ; the Tide there rose nine feet, but nearer the Bay as he went up, it flow'd 14 Feet ; it was there four Leagues wide, 30 Leagues from the East Entrance, and continu'd at least that breadth for six or seven Leagues farther, as far as he could see in a clear Day. The Tide there ebb'd to the eastward eight Hours each Tide, at the rate of six Miles an Hour, then for about two Hours only stem'd the Current, and for the last two Hours set up westerly at the rate of half a Mile an Hour ; and therefore, from its being brackish on the Surface, and from the great Current to eastward during the Ebb, he apprehended it to come from a River or fresh Inland Lake. The whole Coast was ragged and stony, no Snow upon the Land, and little or no Ice in the Inlet.

If these Observations are true, it is neither a River nor fresh Inland Lake, for these Reasons ; the Entrance of the Inlet being only four Leagues Wide, and not wider than six in the Middle, and four Leagues wide at the farthest they went up, continuing still the same breadth, at least for six or seven Leagues farther, where it ebb'd eight Hours, at the rate of six Miles an Hour ; then for two Hours only swell'd and stopt the Current ; and for the last two Hours flow'd westward at the rate of half a Mile an Hour ; the Tide rising there nine Feet ; yet the
Water

Water was brackish, but not fresh on the Surface. This demonstrates that so great a Quantity of Water running six Miles an Hour, and four Leagues wide for eight Hours; and flow'd westward not two Miles in the last two Hours of the Tide; and continuing brackish there, and very salt five Leagues lower, could not proceed from a fresh Lake or River; for as the Streight was but four Leagues wide at East Entrance, and not above six Leagues wide in the Middle, and 30 Leagues long, a Current of fresh Water four Leagues wide, so rapid as to run near 16 Leagues each Ebb, and not one League upon the Flood, in a few Tides must have filled the whole Streight with fresh Water; and therefore the Water being salt in the Streight, and brackish there, must have had its Supply from a salt Sea or Ocean——: For in the *Thames* and other Rivers where there is a strong Tide, they are fresh for many Miles below the flowing of the Tide, caus'd by the fresh Water's forcing back the salt.——

But if that Current proceeded from a Salt Water Tide, through a Streight, it is easy to account for the Water's being only brackish on its Surface, where it was try'd; though it might be very salt below; as it was found upon Trial in *Wager Inlet*; for in those Seas, where the Ice was lately dissolv'd on the Surface, and the Snow thaw'd from the Land, as fresh Water is specifically lighter than salt, it would float upon the salt Water in fine calm Weather, until by Storms and blowing Weather it would mix with the salt Water below it.——Nor was the Shallowness of the Water, nor Muddyness of it there, a Reason to suppose it a River; for as it was near the meeting of the two Tides, where the different Streams met, it would occasion a Bar, as is found at the Mouths of Rivers, and that Bar, would consist of a light Sand or ouzy Mud.——

But

But, on the contrary, supposing it a Current from a Streight which communicates with the Western Ocean, either through a Salt Water Lake, or a narrow Streight, then all the Observations made may be easily accounted for; the Tide would flow towards the Middle of the Streight as well from the Western Ocean as from the East Entrance in *Hudson's Bay*, and must rise and meet near the Middle, according to the Height and Velocity of each Tide, at the different Ends of the Streight,—and wherever they meet, there must be a Swelling and Stop for some time, without any Current either way, and then the Ebb in Proportion to the Distance from the Place of meeting, must be for more or fewer Hours, as is observ'd in navigable Rivers, but would be still salt or brackish. But this alone could not account for so many Hours Ebb each Tide, and for the great Quantity of Water and Velocity of the Current upon the Ebb, since it should fall equally from the Middle to each End of the Streight, as it was not carry'd up by the Flood, as observ'd by Mr. *Westal*.

But upon Supposition that there is a great Ocean at the West End of such Streight, at much the same Distance as this Place was from *Hudson's Bay*, about 30 Leagues, let us consider, if this will not fully explain all that *Westall* observ'd. The Ocean being then at the west Entrance of the Streight, it may be presum'd to have as great an Impulse there, and to raise as high a Tide, as our Eastern Ocean does at the East Entrance of *Hudson's Streight*, where it is known to rise at least 24 Feet.— But the Tide at the East Entrance of this Streight in *Hudson's Bay*, being weaken'd and expanded in the Bay, does not rise there by Observation above 14 Feet— Consequently, the Tide from the Western Ocean rising 24 Feet, must be near as high in the Middle

at Half Flood, as the Tide in the Bay is at High Water, and therefore must continue discharging the Water into the Bay, not only during the whole Ebb of the Bay Tide, but also during great Part of the Flood, until near High Water by the Tide from the Bay, which may happen at the same time, when it may be half Ebb by the Western Ocean Tide, as the Time of High Water of both Tides may not be at the same Time, as they are caus'd by different Oceans, and these Oceans are at different Distances from each End of the Streight; and this must cause so great an Eastern Current into the Bay, which will appear to be Ebb Water into the Bay, as that is lower than the Ocean, though it be from a Flood Tide from the Western Ocean.

This Tide and Current will also fully answer the confirm'd Accounts, why strong North-west Winds raise such high Tides in the West Side of the Bay, though it blow off the Coast, when at the same time strong Easterly Winds, which blow the Eastern Ocean into *Hudson's Streight*, don't raise such Tides on the West Side of the Bay, though it blows against the Coast; for if there be the like Currents in *Corbet's* and *Rankin's* Inlets, which were not follow'd, nor search'd; but only a small Tide of Flood observ'd at the rate of one Mile an Hour; and the whole should be broken Lands betwixt $62^{\circ} 30'$, and 64° .— When there is so great a Current in calm fine Weather, how much more must be thrown in when there is a Storm at North-west? which, added to that thrown in by *Repulse Bay*, must raise such high Tides, as have been observ'd by Marks upon the Shore on that Coast and in the *Welcome*. This will also account for the Currents setting Ships Southward of their Reckonings upon that Coast, and why the Ice is drove from that Coast whilst it

is in great Quantity on the low Beach Coast, and to the Eastward and Southward in the Bay.

That the Tide from the Ocean on the North-west Coast of *America*, should be as high, or rather higher, than the Tide on the North-eastern Coast of *America*, is also agreeable to Reason and Observations, from the Tides and Currents in different Parts of the Globe. The Trade Winds betwixt and near the Tropics, impell the Sea from the Coast of *Africa* against the Eastern Coast of *America*; so that the Water is higher there than upon the *African* Coast. This again by Reflection, and an eddy Current is forc'd out North of *Cuba*, by the *Babama Streights*, North-easterly towards the Coast of *Europe*, in more Northerly Latitudes.— The Trade Wind also causes an Eddy in the Atmosphere in the higher Latitudes, towards the Polar Circle; which is the Cause of the North-west Winds blowing so long and violently in those Latitudes. The Winds consequently lower the Surface of the Ocean on the North-east Coast of *America*, by impelling it against the Coast of *Europe*.— For the same reason, the Trade Wind in the *South Sea*, forming an Eddy Wind and Current, impell the Ocean against the North-west Coast of *America*; and consequently the Surface of the Ocean in those higher Latitudes ought to be higher there, than on the North-east Coast without *Hudson's Strait*; therefore the Tide on the West End of such Strait, as is here suppos'd, ought to be higher than at the East Entrance, even if the Ocean join'd the East End of the Strait, and consequently much higher as it is an Inland Sea: And this Difference of the height must necessarily cause so rapid a Current Eastward into the Bay so many Hours each Tide. Thus the Surface of the Ocean without the Strait
of

of *Gibraltar* being higher than the *Mediterranean* within, causes a perpetual Current into the *Streights*. This also fully accounts why the Ice is forc'd from the North west Coast into the Bay, and out of the East End of *Hudson's Streights*, as is found by constant Observations. —

It is from the like Cause, that it is so difficult to get to Westward by *Cape Horn*, or through *Magellan's Streights*, when in returning Eastward, no such Difficulty is found. The Water in high Southerly Latitudes by its eddy Current and strong eddy Westerly Winds, being impelled Easterly in like manner; and the Tide in these Openings in *Hudson's Bay* and round by *Repulse Bay*, are almost parallel to the Tide in *Magellan's Streights* and round *Terra del Fuego*, with this only Difference, that the two Oceans join the two Ends of the *Strait of Magellan*; but here an Inland Sea is at the East End, where the Tide being lower, being much spent, causes the great Current Eastward upon the Ebb for eight Hours, as is found by Experience —

This Discovery and Observation also perfectly agrees with Admiral *de Fonte's* Letter to the Viceroy of *Peru*: He says in sailing up *Rio los Keys*, and down the River *Parmentiers*, into, and out of *Lake Belle*, the Tide flow'd 24 Feet at Entrance, it was fresh 20 Leagues higher, but continu'd to rise and flow for 60 Leagues, to the Entrance of the Lake, where it was from four to seven Fathoms deep, and an Hour and Quarter before High Water set gently into the Lake. He was five Days in sailing down the River *Parmentiers* into *Lake Fonte*, down eight Sharps, or falls as he calls them, making altogether 32 Feet, which is four Feet to each Fall, which was caused by the Number of Tides; which Sharps upon the Ebb he calls Falls; *Lake Fonte* a salt Lake, in which were plenty of Cod and

Ling, lay North-east 160 Leagues, was 60 Leagues broad, and from 20 to 60 Fathom deep. He from thence enter'd *Estricho de Ronquillo*, which was 34 Leagues long, two or three broad, and 20 to 28 Fathoms deep; this, he says, he pass'd in 10 Hours, having a stout Gale and whole Ebb eastward. May not this or *Corbet's*, or *Rankin's Inlet*, be Part of that Streight that *de Fonte* pass'd, as he found the Ebb ran Easterly, though he came from the Western Ocean, and as he soon after came to the *Boston Ship*, might it not have been trading in the Bay near *Whalecove*? Here he arriv'd the 18th of *July*, 1640, when all the Ice was drove from that Coast. That this Manuscript Letter of *de Fonte*, publish'd by Mr. *Petivir*, was a genuine *Spanish* Manuscript convey'd to him from *Lisbon*, where he had a Correspondence with Men of Learning, and his getting it from thence, seems very rational, and easy to be accounted for. The King of *Spain* was possess'd of *Portugal* until the Year 1640, when *de Fonte* made his Voyage, and the *Spanish American* Ships then came to *Lisbon*, instead of *Cales*. The Revolution of *Portugal* happen'd that Year. The Ships coming from *America* that Year, not knowing of the Revolution, were seiz'd by the *Portuguese*, and in one of them this Letter, which not being of Consequence to the *Portuguese*, who were then only solicitous of securing their Liberty and Independence, was thrown carelessly by; and coming, in Process of Time, into some curious Person's Hand, it was sent, or a Copy of it, to Mr. *Petiver* in *England*, and publish'd by him in 1707 or 1708.— Though it has been taken from an incorrect Copy, or carelessly printed; yet, that it was taken from a *Spanish* Manuscript, is almost demonstrable both from the *Hispanisms* in the Translation, and also from the *Spanish* Harbours mention'd in it, which can't be found

found in any *English, French, or Dutch* Maps, publish'd before 1712, some Years after printing that Letter. The Port of *Ralea* mention'd in it, is undoubtedly *Realcia*, and is so describ'd in most Charts; But the Port of *Saragua* or *Salagua*, and the Isle of *Chamilly*, as it is printed, are not to be found in any *English, Dutch, or French* Maps or Charts, before that publish'd of the *South Sea* in 1712, upon the forming the *South Sea* Company; where *Salagua* is noted; but that plainly appears to be taken from the *Spanish* Charts taken in the *Acapulco* Ship in 1710, by the *Duke and Dutcheſs* Privateers of *Bristol*, as publish'd by *Cook*, where the Port of *Salagua* and the Isles of *Chametly* are laid down and describ'd in the same Latitude as mention'd in *de Fonte's* Letter; and the same Port of *Salagua* is now inserted in the *Spanish* Chart taken by Lord *Anſon* on board the *Manila* Ship; which must demonstrably shew, that *de Fonte's* Letter was genuine, and taken from a *Spanish* Manuscript, otherwise they would not have chose to insert Ports, unknown in *English, Dutch* and *French* Charts. — And if the Letter be from a *Spanish* Manuscript, we have no Reason to doubt the Truth of the Voyage, as it could not be calculated to serve any sinister Purpose, to impose upon the World a false spurious Account. — Let us also observe the Account given by *de Fuca* the *Greek* Pilot, to Mr. *Lock* in *Venice* in 1596, and compare it with these Inlets, and *de Fonte's* Account. Upon hearing of the *English* Attempts to find out a North-west Passage, the King of *Spain* order'd the Viceroy of *Mexico* to fit out some Ships to sail round *California* to prevent it, and seize such Ships as they should meet in the Passage. This *Greek* Pilot was order'd in 1592 to make the Discovery, and and in the Latitude of 47° North of *California*, found a Streight, which was 40 Leagues wide at the

Entrance, and grew larger. He sail'd in it for the most Part Northeasterly, for 20 Days, until he came to the *North Sea*, describing the People he saw there, cloathed in Furs and Skins : And having but few Hands, and being afraid of wintering among the Natives, he return'd, thinking to get a Reward for his Discovery ; but after fair Promises for two Years, was sent to *Spain* for his Reward ; and the *Spaniards* then finding the *English* had given over the Discovery, being neglected after long Attendance, he stole away to his own Country. — Does not this Account also tally with *de Fonte's* Account of *Lake Fonte*, except that the Admiral miss'd the great Southern Entrance, by getting into the *Archipelago* of *St. Lazare*, and from thence into the River *Los Reyes*, and so into *Lake Belle*, before he got into *Lake Fonte* ? and is it not probable that the *Greek Pilot's* Entrance into the *North Sea* or *Hudson's Bay*, was in the Latitude of $62^{\circ} 30'$, as is mention'd in *Sir James Lancaster's* remarkable Postscript from the *Cape of Good Hope*, which corresponds exactly with *Corbet's Inlet*, and is not far from *Rankin's* and *Chesterfield's Inlets* ; where, in his great Distress, without Connection with the rest of his Letter, he says, *Nota Bene*, That the Passage to *India* is on the North-west Side of *America*, in 62° ; this was wrote in 1600, ten Years before the Discovery of *Hudson's Streight and Bay* ; and therefore could not be known from *Europe* : But as *Sir James Lancaster* was then returning home from the *Molucco* Islands, about seven or eight Years after *de Fuco* had made that Discovery, who had sail'd from *Accapulco*, and as the *Spaniards* who had sail'd with him, might have been afterwards employ'd in sailing from thence to *Manila* and the *Moluccos*, it is highly probable as the Discovery had been so lately made, as a curious Piece of News, he might have heard from them,
and

and in his Distress was afraid it might die with him, and therefore mention'd it in his Postscript for the Public Good ; but the Company upon his Return having establish'd their Trade by the *Cape of Good Hope*, prosecuted it no farther, being content, like other Companies, with their present Trade without further Risque. —

If to this is added the only Attempt made by the *Hudson's Bay Company*, if it can be said to be properly theirs, as it was against their Inclination, but forced upon them by Governor *Knight* one of their Number (after threatening them that he would apply for another Charter, if they would not fit him out for the Discovery) when they fitted out two Ships, under the Command of *Barlow* and *Vaughan*, two of them Captains, *Knight* himself above 80 Years old, going with them, upon Information he had from the Natives North of *Churchill*, of the Streight, Passage, and fine Copper Mine upon it ; — it appears that he expected to find it at *Corbet's Inlet*, near *Pistol Bay* ; for when *Scrags* was sent Northward in 1722, to find out what was become of those Ships, he saw some broken Yards and Blocks floating near *Pistol Bay*, Eastward of *Corbet's Inlet*, and the *Eskimaux* in Possession of Part of the Wreck *Marble Island* ; which is a great Presumption that *Knight* expected the Passage and Copper Mine to be thereabouts ; and probably one of the Ships might have got into it, or through it, and have been afterwards lost ; for if both had been lost in the Bay, within 70 Leagues of *Churchil Factory*, it is highly probable some of them might have been saved, and have got to *Churchill* or to some of the Northern *Indians* in amity with the *English*, who would have inform'd the *English* at the Factory of their Misfortune. —

There

There being also neither Trees nor Woods in this New Inlet, shews it to be a Salt Water Passage, and no Snow on the Ground and very little Ice in the Inlet; for had it been a large Continent with so great a fresh River, there must have been great Woods in the Latitude of 64° , since there are great Woods at *Archangel* in that Latitude, and in *Lapland* in 70° in the South of *Nova Zembla* and among the *Samoyeids* at the *Oby Jenesea & Lena* in that Latitude.

Add to this the Whales seen at the East Entrance of all these Inlets and the *Welcome*, and the Quantity of Whale Fin traded with the Natives near *Whalecove*, which had been taken that Season early in *June*, which could only be there from the Western Ocean; so that from so many Accounts coinciding to prove this to be a Streight, and not an Inland Lake or River, I may rationally conclude, that through these Openings the so much desir'd Passage may be found.

HENRY

HENRY ELLIS of *Lawrence Lane, Cheap-side, London*, Gentleman, and late Agent for the *North-west Committee* on an Expedition for the Discovery of a North-west Passage through *Hudson's Bay* to the Western and Southern Ocean of *America*, maketh Oath, and saith, That he this Deponent went out on board the *Dobbs Galley* in *May, 1746*, upon an Expedition for the Discovery of the said Passage; and that this Deponent's chief Business was to assist with his Observations and Endeavours to promote and perfect the same Discovery. And this Deponent further saith, That whilst the said Ship was so employ'd, he, this Deponent, landed at the several Places hereafter mention'd, where he assisted in making Trials of the Circumstances attending the Tides (that is to say) at *Knight's Island* in Latitude 62° North, at *Nevil's Bay* in 62° , 12 North; to the Westward of *Whale Cove* in Latitude 62° 27; at *Corbet's Inlet* in 62° 47; at *Marble Island* in 62° , 55; at *Cape Fry* in 64° , 32; at an Island in about Latitude 65° 6; at *Wager's Bay* above three Degrees of Longitude, by Computation farther Westward than any of Captain *Middleton's* People, or any other *Europeans* that this Deponent ever heard of, had been before; at *Douglas Harbour* in the same Bay, and several other Places, as also on the East Side of the *Welcome* near *Cape Veteran*. And upon the whole of these Trials, this Deponent found the following Facts appear, viz. That the Flood Tide came from the Northward the Course of the Coast; and that the time of Full Sea or High Water at *Cape Fry*

Fry was sooner than at *Knight's Island*, though the former is much farther to the Northward: That North-west Winds make the highest Tides considerably on the West Coast of *Hudson's Bay*: That the Water rose higher to the Northwards than at the Place this Deponent had try'd it to the Southward, by several Feet: And that the Water was salt and very transparent; so that the Bottom might be seen at the Depth of 11 Fathoms, or 66 Feet: That this Deponent saw many black Whales to the Northward of 63, but none to the Southward of that Latitude upon the Western Coast of *Hudson's Bay*: That the Times of Ebbing and flowing of the Tides in the *Welcome* were as regular as all Ocean Tides usually are. And this Deponent saith, that all these Circumstances and the Consequences arising therefrom, do in this Deponent's Judgment, and as he verily believes, establish a very strong Probability of there being a Passage from *Hudson's Bay* into some other Ocean to the Westward of the said Bay. But in order to explain the Foundation of such this Deponent's Judgment and Belief, this Deponent thinks it necessary to make the following Observations relative thereto, which, to Persons concern'd in Sea-Affairs, are well known to be founded in Fact.— And first, it is generally agreed, That there are no Tide nor any Swelling of the Water upon the Shores in Inland Seas (such as the *Mediterranean*, *Baltick* and *Caspian*) except only very inconsiderable ones, and those occasion'd merely by particular Winds, and not by the Attraction or Influence of other Bodies, which is allow'd to be the chief or only Cause of Ocean Tides.— Secondly, It is well known that when the Wind blows with the Flood Tide, it accelerates its Motion, and consequently raises the Water higher upon any Coast that opposes it, and in all Streights or Inlets into which

which it flows. And on the other hand, when the Wind opposes its Current, it lessens its Velocity and keeps out the Water proportionable in this Case as it forces it in the other. — And this Deponent saith, that the Consequences appearing to him to arise from these two indisputable Facts (as this Deponent apprehends and believes the same to be) are, first, That if *Hudson's Bay* were an Inland Sea, and had no other Supply of Water than what it receives through *Hudson's Streights* (which, according to the Trial made by Captain *Fox*, is spent at *Cary's Swan's Nest*, where the Tides rose but six Feet when he try'd the same, as appears by the Journal publish'd by him) there would be no higher Tides or Currents in *Hudson's Bay* than what are found in the Inland Seas abovemention'd, or at most, not one half so high as upon this Deponent's Trial thereof, as aforesaid, they appear'd to be; for this Deponent cannot conceive how it is possible that a Tide rising but six Feet at *Cary's Swan's Nest*, should, after flowing some hundred Miles further from the Place from whence the Eastern Tide is suppos'd to come, rise to the height of 17 Feet, as it was found to do near *Cape Dobbs*, unless it met with another Tide from the Northward or Westward. — And, Secondly, North-west Winds producing the highest Tides in *Hudson's Bay*, makes it evident to this Deponent, that the extraordinary Increase of Water occasion'd thereby, is brought from another Ocean lying to the Westward of the said Bay, and cannot come from the *Atlantic Ocean*, as those Winds would in such Case oppose it, — and which also may be further illustrated and confirm'd by a parallel Instance arising on the Eastern Coast of *England*, where North-west Winds make greater Tides than Easterly Winds do; and (as has been generally agreed) from the same Cause, *to wit*, that the great Ocean from

whence the Tides there are propagated, lies to the Westward. And this Deponent further saith, That North-westerly Winds being observ'd to cause the highest Tides in *Hudson's Bay*, and the Flood coming from the Northward, being too strong Circumstances in favour of a North-west Passage, they were inserted in an Act of Council in *August* last at *Douglas Harbour* in *Wager Bay*, and witness'd by the principal Officers of the *Dobbs* and *California*, who were Members of the said Council, as Facts that were unanimously allow'd to be true. And this Deponent believes, that there is such a Passage, it must be short: Which Conclusion he draws from the Height, Regularity and Rapidity of the Tides in the *Welcome*: And that it is passable from its being observ'd, That there is less Ice in the *Welcome* to the Northward in 65° than there is in the Southern Part of the Bay in 52 or 53 in the latter End of the Summer. And though the Season for pursuing such Passage is but short, yet it is considerably lengthen'd by there being no Night in those Northern Latitudes about that time of the Year. And this Deponent saith, That he found the time of High Water to happen sooner at *Cape Fry* than at *Knight's Island*; which this Deponent apprehends clearly shews, that the former (though farther Northward) was nearer than the latter to the Ocean from whence the Tide came. And this Deponent saith, that he was inform'd by the Officer that discover'd the Opening call'd *Chesterfield Inlet*, that he found the Stream of the Ebb there run from the Westward for eight Hours, at the rate of six Miles an Hour; and that the Flood ran up but at the rate of two Miles an Hour: And that at Low Water at the Distance of above 30 Leagues from the Entrance, the Water, though fresher than that of the Ocean, had yet a strong Degree of Saltness; from whence this Deponent

ponent infers a Probability of there being a Thoroughfare, since if there were not, the Water ought to be perfectly fresh: For that as no Salt Water went up for more than two Hours on the Flood, none should have come down after two Hours Ebb, even if the Ebb had been as long as the Flood; but it appears to have been much swifter: And this Deponent saith, That though it is certain that a Flood Tide from the Westward in the said Inlet would have incontestibly prov'd there being a Passage through the same to the Western Ocean; yet a Flood Tide from the Eastward does not, as this Deponent apprehends, prove the contrary; as is evident in the Instance of the *Magellanic Streight*, where, according to the accurate Account given by Sir *John Narborough*, the Tide flows half way up that Streight from the Eastward, and is then met by another Flood from the *Western* or *Pacific Ocean*.— And this Deponent further saith, that he never heard that the Openings call'd *Rankin's* and *Chesterfield's* Inlets were ever search'd by any Person in the *Hudson's Bay* Company's Service, or any other Person whomsoever before the Year 1747, when the same were enter'd and examin'd by the Officers belonging to the *Dobbs Galley* and *Callifornia*.— And that he this Deponent never saw, or could hear, of any correct Chart or Search having been made of the Parts to the Northward of Latitude of 62°, 30; by any of the *Hudson's Bay* Company's Servants.

JEREMIAH WESTALL of Great Yarmouth in the County of *Norfolk*, Mariner, maketh Oath, and saith, That two Ships having in the Year 1746 been fitted out at the Expence of several Merchants of the City of *London* and others, to go upon an Expedition in search of a North-west Passage by *Hudson's Streights* into the Western and Southern Ocean of *America*; he this Deponent, in the Month of *May* 1746, went on the said Expedition in Quality of Mate on board one of the said Ships, viz. the Ship call'd the *California*. — And this Deponent saith, That the said Ship in *June* 1747, sail'd from her Winter Quarters in *Haye's River* in *Hudson's Bay* upon the said Discovery. — And in *July* following this Deponent was dispatch'd in the Ship's Long-boat to search the Opening now call'd *Rankin's Inlet*. — And this Deponent saith, he sail'd in the said Long-boat about 15 Leagues up the said Opening. — And so far as this Deponent went, the said Opening appear'd to be between five and six Leagues wide, interspers'd with Islands. — And at the utmost Extent that this Deponent went in the said Opening, this Deponent could not discern any End or Termination thereof, though the Day was clear, and this Deponent could see for six or eight Leagues further. — And thereupon this Deponent return'd back and made a Report accordingly to the Captain of the said Ship. — And this Deponent further saith, that afterwards, *to wit*, about the Middle of the said Month of *July* 1747, this Deponent went Northwards in the said Long-boat
in

in order to make further Discoveries.— And in Latitude 64° , this Deponent discover'd a large opening call'd *Chesterfield's Inlet* ; up which this Deponent sail'd about thirty Leagues ;— where this Deponent found the said Opening to be about four Leagues wide ; and to the Westward it seem'd still to increase in Width.— And at the Extent of the said thirty Leagues up the said Inlet, this Deponent found the Water salt, though not in the same Degree as the Ocean ;— which this Deponent believes was occasion'd by the Snow and Ice melting at that Season of the Year. and the fresh water lying on the Surface ;— which is an Effect produc'd by the same Cause in the *Baltic Sea* in the Month of *June*.— And this Deponent also found the Stream of the Ebb to come from the Westward at the rate of five or six Miles an Hour.— And in that manner the said Stream ran down the Eastward for about eight Hours.— And for about two Hours more the Water stood still while it swelled upon the Shore.— And for about two Hours more a gentle Current ran up to the Westward at the rate of about half a Mile an Hour.— And afterwards the Current from the Westward ran with the same Violence, and in the same manner as before.— And this Deponent saith, that at the Extent of the said thirty Leagues up the said Opening call'd *Chesterfield Inlet*, this Deponent could not observe any Termination thereof, although the Day was perfectly clear, and this Deponent could see for six or eight Leagues farther.— And this Deponent saith, that neither of the said Openings was ever enter'd or discover'd by the *Hudson's Bay Company*, or any of their Agents, or by any other Person, as this Deponent verily believes, before this Deponent's Discovery thereof as aforesaid.— And this Deponent further saith, that in all the Places where this Deponent try'd the Tides in *Hudson's Bay* (which he often

often did in the Course of the said Expedition) this Deponent found the main Flood Tide to come from the Northward ;—from whence this Deponent is strongly induc'd to believe, that there is a Northwest Passage to the Western Ocean of *America*.— And this Deponent further saith, that in the Month of *August* 1746, it being found necessary to shelter the said Ships during the Winter Season in some Part of *Hudson's Bay*, in order the more effectually to prosecute the Discovery the next Season, *Elay's River* was chose for that Purpose, where the said *Hudson's Bay* Company had a Settlement call'd *York Fort*.—And this Deponent saith, that upon the said Ships attempting to enter the said River, one of the said Ships (*to wit*, the *Dobbs Galley*) ran a-ground upon the Shoals at the Entrance thereof.— And whilst the said Ship was in this dangerous Situation, and the other Ship (*to wit*, the *California*) not in Safety, the Governor of *York Fort* aforesaid, in order the more effectually to distress the said Ships, sent his Boat and Men to cut down the Beacon, and remove such other Marks as might have afforded any Assistance in relieving the Ships from their then dangerous Condition.— And this they persisted to do notwithstanding they were call'd out to whilst they were cutting down the said Beacon and other Marks of Pilotage, and desir'd to desist.— And this Deponent further saith, that the People who came in the said Boat acknowledg'd that the said Governor gave them Orders for what they did as aforesaid ; and that the said Governor before the giving of such Orders, knew that the said Ships were *English* Ships, and that they came upon the said Discovery. — And this Deponent further saith, that upon many other Occasions the said Governor, or the People at the said Fort by his Order, did many ill Offices, with a View, as this Deponent believes, to obstruct and discourage the Commanders

of the said Ships in their Pursuit of the said Discovery.— And this Deponent further saith, that in the Course of the Prosecution of the said Discovery, this Deponent, in the Latitude 62° and half, and 65° North, saw many black Whales, and of the Whalebone kind, but none of the said black Whales in the Southern Part of *Hudson's Bay*.— And the further Advance was made to the Northward, the larger Quantity of Black Whales were seen.

F I N I S.

